

United States Post Office,

A. W. SHAFFER,
POSTMASTER.

Raleigh, N.C., April 6th 1890.

Dear Mrs. Bourque,

I have received and carefully examined the Elections Bill.

In the fullness of detail it is almost beyond criticism. Indeed the danger is that there is too much of it for the illiterate precincts of the South, tho' I note that the officers, by implication, need not be residents of the precincts in which they serve, and comment generally as follows.

- 1 That considering the biennial character of elections, the brevity of the work, (covering about 6 months) and the great amount of labor during that period, it might be better to allow the Com' a biennial sum of \$1,200, rather than ^{\$1000.} annual, and give him an additional allowance for any extra elections, with biennial Clerical allowance of \$300.
- 2 Provide that all prosecutions for misdemeanors may be by presentment, and give the Judge less latitude and discretion - fix the minimum of all fines and imprisonment - and where fines only - add - "to be imprisoned until paid," else nine out of ten will escape all punishment, and this will hold them at least 30 days - until they can take the insolvent debtors oath.

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3. Give jurisdiction to the Court and Com. of Judicial District having the greater No of Voters of a Cong'l District lying partly within two Judicial Districts. Not very material, but disposal of one of two sets of officials in the same ^{Cong'l} District, desirable for the Candidates and the Congress.
 4. How can "Commisarius of Elections" be impressed across the face of the Seal of the District Court, without punching out the bezel?
 5. Expenses for Books, blanks, Ballot Boxes, Stationery and method of payment a little obscure. Probably the books should be at the expense of the precinct, except for rent. I think this Bill will accomplish the purpose whenever persons of sufficient intelligence can be had to operate it. It is wonderfully complete.
- I have not yet received the new books, and will take pleasure in reporting upon them after reading. Everything quiet here except the Adelanters. "The True United Brethren" copied from North State going the rounds with Oran for Oran, and like horrible misprints. Pleasant, is it not? only 70 years difference in the characters —
- Very truly yours,
A. W. Shaffer